Project for setting up a Demonstration Farm at IARI. The Project has since been completed.

(c) and (d) A number of states, Indian companies and farmers have indicated interest in desert farming technology evolved by Israel. The states that have expressed interest include Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Nagaland, Karnataka, Orissa, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh.

So far only Government of Nagaland has proposed collaboration with companies in Israel for training of agricultural graduates for intensive internship course and for field cultivation with water harvesting management for irrigation specially during the dry season and for protected cultivation for year round cultivation of vegetables.

Government of Gujarat has proposed inclusion of some State Universities in the Work Plan to enable them to have collaborative arrangements with Israeli counterpart institutions.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Assistance to A.P.

3034. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sent a detailed communication to the Government of Andhra Pradesh listing out the developmental and welfare activities to be taken up to prevent suicides;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also announced Rs.15,000 crores special package for farmers in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have released any amount, so far; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and how the amount would be utilized by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to launch a special rehabilitation package for the identified districts in the four States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala, The proposal was discussed with the concerned State Governments including of Andhra Pradesh on 10th April, 2006. The package in respect

of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra has been announced on 1st July, 2006. Which, *inter alia*, contains provision for *ex-gratia* assistance from the Prime Ministers National Relief Fund, debt relief to farmers, enhanced credit flow, interest waiver, assured irrigation facilities, seed replacement and cropping intensity, watershed development, horticulture development, micro irrigation, extension services, and subsidiary income opportunities.

(c) to (f) Government is finalizing to package in respect of the identified districts in the other three States including Andhra Pradesh, on the pattern of the package that has been announced for the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

Coverage of Bt. cotton

3035. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where Bt. cotton was grown during 2005-06 and per hectare net profit earned by growers from it;

(b) whether the area under Bt. cotton has increased recently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (c) Bt. cotton was grown in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu during 2005-06, Bt. cotton growing states have reported increase in yields ranging from 15-30% and reduced expenditure on plant protection. The area under Bt. cotton has increased as shown in the following table:

(Area in acres)

States	Kharif-2002	Kharif-2003	Kharif-2004	Kharif-2005
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	9,404	13,500	1,76,000	2,23,422
Madhya Pradesh	3,676	33,000	2,12,798	3,36,597
Gujarat	22,577	1,03,000	3,11,157	3,68,812
Maharashtra	30,699	54, 000	3,99,000	12,56,961
Karnataka	5,401	7,500	84,764	72,510
Tamil Nadu	925	19,000	29, 640	42,048
Punjab	-	-	-	1,74,024